

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 78

By Favors

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Vilma S. Fields for meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee as Executive Director of the Chattanooga African American Museum.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Vilma S. Fields, who is the Executive Director of the Chattanooga African American Museum (CAAM), a position she has held since 1987; and

WHEREAS, a retired teacher and librarian, Vilma Fields was appointed to the Chattanooga African American Museum Board in 1983; shortly afterward, she began volunteering for the museum, which was then housed in a small room of the Central City Complex; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, the board named the able Mrs. Fields as the Museum Director; and

WHEREAS, her vision, leadership, and commitment to the preservation of African American history brought the museum from where it was in 1987, to the nationally recognized facility it is today; and

WHEREAS, she has been the driving force behind that success, particularly in the areas of grants, fundraising, and membership growth; and

WHEREAS, the respect and admiration felt for Mrs. Fields and CAMM extend beyond the Chattanooga and Hamilton County community; due to her efforts and commitment, CAMM receives national distinction for the conservation and educational focus of local and national African American history; and

WHEREAS, Vilma Fields was awarded the “Lifetime Achievement Award” by The National African American Museums Association for her work to make CAMM a recognized educational institution in Chattanooga and the United States; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her work with CAMM, Mrs. Fields still finds time to lend her talents to such notable causes as the revitalization of downtown Chattanooga, especially through her service on the City Committee which drafted the initial Public Art Plan; and

WHEREAS, she is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the NAACP, PUSH Inc., Carats Inc., the Night to Remember Board of Directors, and the Couples Club of Chattanooga; she is also involved with the Howard Alumni Committee, and is a Clark Atlanta University Alumni Chapter member; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Mrs. Fields has received a variety of community awards and recognitions, including Teacher of the Year award for Chattanooga Public Schools, the PUSH Program Woman of the Year award, the Professional and Business Woman of the Year award, the Citizen of the Year award from the National Phi Delta Kappa Sorority, and Alpha Kappa Alpha’s Outstanding Service Award; and

WHEREAS, she epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, a mother of four children, Vilma Fields is most grateful for the love and companionship she shares with her husband, Charles W. Fields; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Fields is also an active and devout member of Hurst United Methodist Church, where she worships faithfully; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Vilma Fields for her dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Vilma S. Fields for her meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, as we recognize the many contributions she has made to her community and this nation as Executive

Director of the Chattanooga African American Museum, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.